

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Use of Volunteers During Oil Spill Response-NRT Concept



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What is a Volunteer?

40 CFR 300.5: Volunteer-any individual accepted to perform services by the lead agency which has authority to accept volunteer services.

Unaffiliated Volunteer

Paid Volunteer

Unpaid Volunteer

Convergent Volunteer

Affiliated Volunteer

Volunteer Management Agency



History of Volunteer Use in Oil Spill Response

- Volunteers have responded to oil spills in the past:
 - T/V EXXON VALDEZ- March 1989
 - Wildlife rescue--->spill response
 - M/T ATHOS I- November 2004
 - Wildlife rescue (Audobon Society; Delaware River Keepers; Tri-State Bird Rescue)
 - M/V HEBEI SPIRIT- December 2007
 - +1 million volunteers
 - Private citizens, S. Korean government; US government
 - M/V COSCO BUSAN- November 2007

Nongovernmental participation

40 CFR 300.185

(a) Industry groups, academic organizations, and others are encouraged to commit resources for response operations.

(c) ACPs shall establish procedures to allow for well organized, worthwhile, and safe use of volunteers.... ACPs should provide for the direction of volunteers by the OSC/RPM or by other federal, state, or local officials knowledgeable in contingency operations and capable of providing leadership. ACPs also should identify specific areas in which volunteers can be used.... Unless specifically requested by the OSC/RPM, volunteers should not be used for physical removal....volunteers shall be restricted from on-scene operations.



Key Concepts from "DRAFT" NRT Use of Volunteers Technical Assistance Document (TAD)

- Area Committee collaboration with local, state, regional affiliated volunteer organizations
- Bolster pre-incident training and exercise participation & planning
- Gain an awareness of federal & state's safety and health standards/regulations for response to oil

Key Concepts cont'd...

- Be aware of and use social networking technologies to disseminate official information, dispel rumors, and assist in educating volunteers
- Liability-Understand the existing complexities
- Area Committee collaboration with local, state, regional affiliated volunteer organizations.

Coast Guard Interim Policy

- Based on key concepts developed in the NRT Volunteer Workgroup but meet the specific needs of CG Federal OSCs
- Can also be used by other agencies in their use of volunteers policy development
- Draft form--->in concurrent clearance process



Challenges

- Liability
 - For volunteers
 - For volunteer actions
 - Exposure of the RP to injury lawsuits
- Volunteer Safety and Health
 - OSHA Standard
 - EPA Standard
- Congressional Interest

Memorandum of Understanding---CNCS, USCG, and EPA

- Initiated by NRT Use of Volunteers Workgrou
- Develop and support an unaffiliated volunteer management program
- Participate in preparedness and planning activities
- Coordinate with JIC for information dissemination when called upon during a response.

Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS)

- Independent Federal Agency
- Volunteer Annex of National Response Framework
- CNCS Experience includes:
 - Volunteer outreach
 - Volunteer communication
 - Volunteer training
 - Volunteer management
 - Work with FEMA through ESF #8

Questions?

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